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| Butcher or Smallgoods Maker | Australian Capital Territory |
| ANZSCO Code: 3512-11 | August 2009 |
| Labour market rating: | Shortage |
| Comment: | |

Occupational demand

ABS Census data show there are approximately 200 Butcher or Smallgoods Makers in the ACT. The same data show around 90 per cent of Butcher or Smallgoods Makers are employed in the retail trade industry, and around 5 per cent are employed in the wholesale trade industry. The DEEWR Internet Vacancies Index shows a significant increase in vacancies for butchers and small goods makers in the ACT over the 12 months to April 2009.

Occupational supply

Entry to this occupation is via completion of an apprenticeship and the attainment of a Certificate III in butchery courses such as the Butchery Meat Processing in Meat Retailing two year apprenticeship available at the Canberra Institute of Technology. ABS Census data for the ACT indicate around two thirds of Butcher or Smallgoods Makers in the ACT hold either a Certificate III or IV in this trade. Data from the National Centre for Vocational Research show student commencements and completions of Butcher or Smallgoods Maker training in the ACT increased slightly over the five years to 2008. Department of Immigration and Citizenship data show overseas migration has had a minimal impact on supply to this occupation in recent years.

Employer and industry comments/current labour market

A DEEWR Survey of Employers who had Recently Advertised (SERA) for Butcher or Smallgoods Makers in the ACT was undertaken for this report. One fifth of advertised vacancies were filled within four weeks of advertising, and on average there were 1.8 applicants per vacancy with less than one suitable applicant for each advertised vacancy. Applicants who were considered unsuitable by employers generally did not have the experience or formal trade qualifications employers were seeking.

About 60 percent of vacancies were to replace Butcher or Smallgoods Makers who had left the business with the remainder being new positions, and most employers required applicants to possess a trade qualification. All employers contacted reported it is difficult to recruit Butcher or Smallgoods Makers in the ACT with a significant number of employers reporting they did not receive any applications in response to their advertised vacancy. In addition, employers commented it is difficult to recruit apprentices and suggested the physical nature of the work may contribute to people not entering or staying in this trade.

Labour market outlook

There is no evidence to suggest the labour market for Butcher or Smallgoods Makers in the ACT will change significantly over the next six months.